



2012 EARTH DAY 2012

The earth’s two ice-covered Polar regions are as distinct from one another as they are different from the rest of the earth. Both the northern Arctic and southern Antarctic shelter diverse forms of life, particularly aquatic mammals. The Arctic is home to polar bears, seals, narwhals, walruses, sea birds and cold-water coral reefs. The Antarctic, the coldest place on earth, supports several species of penguins and birds, such as albatrosses and petrels. Seals and whales are among the rare mammals that frequent Antarctica, which is a frozen continent separate from any other major land mass. ❄️ Two species that have come to symbolize their polar homes —penguins in Antarctica and polar bears in the Arctic—are threatened with extinction due to loss of their sea ice habitats. The Arctic ice sheet is melting faster than scientists anticipated. Air and water pollution also negatively affect polar biodiversity. 🌿 There are no human populations indigenous to Antarctica. But humans have inhabited the Arctic regions of Alaska (USA), Canada, Greenland, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, and Russia for centuries. Many Arctic indigenous communities are experiencing the negative effects of climate change. 🌊 The Polar regions are rich repositories of natural resources for scientific study and offer opportunities for international cooperation in environmental research, security, and conservation of plants and wildlife. 🐻

2012

- 1 Sandhill Crane
- 2 Snowy Owl
- 3 Arctic Tern
- 4 Arctic Fox
- 5 Lemming
- 6 Polar Bear
- 7 Purple Saxifrage
- 8 Spider Saxifrage
- 9 Dwarf Fireweed
- 10 Mountain Aven



- 11 Net-veined Willow
- 12 Antarctic Octopus
- 13 Blackline Prickleback
- 14 Narwhal
- 15 King Eider
- 16 Epimeria [*Epimeria rubrieques*]
- 17 Fairy Prion
- 18 Emperor Penguin
- 19 Ross Seal